

CENTER SCENE



The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter

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Mako Hideshima 1933 - 1987

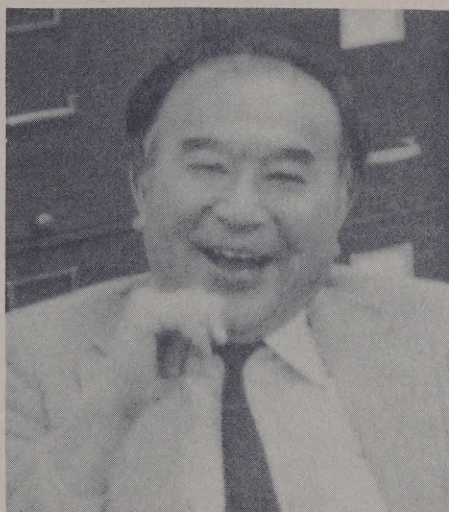
The crash of Continental Flight 1713 saddened the nation, as major airline crashes always do. Many of us at the Service Center, however, felt a much more personal sense of loss. Mako Hideshima, Chief of the Branch of Records and Library, was among the 28 fatalities.

Mako was a remarkable human being. His childhood was spent at Topaz Camp near Delta, Utah, one of many internment camps that Japanese Americans were confined to during World War II. At one point, his family lived in whitewashed horse stalls at a local racetrack. Even though this bitter experience was financially devastating for his family, Mako went on to be class president at Lincoln High School in Orem, Utah, and was captain of both the football and baseball teams. Following high school graduation, Mako served two years in the Army and went on to earn a B.S. in political science from the University of Utah in 1959.

From 1961 to 1965, Mako worked as a Management Analyst for the Department of the Army at Dugway Proving Grounds. In 1965, he was transferred to Japan, where he spent the next 5 years immersing himself in the language and culture of his family's homeland.

After another tour at Dugway, Mako began his BLM career in 1974. Starting out as a Management Analyst, he rose to the position of Chief, Division of Records, in 1980, remaining as Chief when the Division became a Branch.

Mako was a tireless crusader on behalf of good records management in the Bureau. He understood clearly the importance of being able to properly store and retrieve information, and he worked hard to communicate his concerns to others. As a Management Analyst, Mako drew upon his Department of the Army experience to bring a new level of expertise and professionalism to the Bureau. Always a self-starter, he broke a lot of new ground for the Bureau's management analysis and records



management programs and helped fellow employees recognize the importance of good records and information management in every Bureau program.

As Division Chief, Mako transformed the Division of Records. He moved the Division away from operational day-to-day involvement in field office activities, instead providing help on a consulting basis. He then completed numerous studies to help improve records management Bureauwide. Mako oversaw the streamlining of the *Public Land Statistics* publication and the finalization of the Bureau's first disaster recovery plan. He helped solve the numerous problems arising from the BLM-MMS merger and also helped develop the IRM tri-annual review procedures. Under Mako's guidance, the Division and Branch supported ALMRS by developing the Master Name data base and providing a liaison person. Mako was actively involved in setting up the current Bureauwide records inventory. And he doubled the number of courses offered under the Bureau's records management training program. Finally, under Mako's guidance the BLM Library grew from a small facility oriented to SC needs to a full-service library providing Bureauwide service.

Mako possessed a keen intellect and could be a tenacious and determined advocate when he really believed in something. Yet he never was heard to utter an unkind remark about anyone and clearly disapproved when others did so in

his presence. Mako's generosity was always apparent in late summer when he would share the bounty from his fruit trees and garden with his employees. And his passionate love of sports, especially baseball, resulted in many spirited and enthusiastic conversations with coworkers.

Mako leaves behind his wife Helen; two daughters, Linda, 35, and Becky, 32; and a son Mays, 21 years old. Mako was also very close to his three grandchildren.

Mako touched many lives in a very positive way during his 13 years with the Bureau. He is going to be missed.

Employee Excellence Seminar

Colorado's first Employee Excellence Seminar was held the week of October 19-23, 1987, in Florissant, Colorado. Though originated by the State Office, several employees from the Service Center attended, including Bob Moore, Service Center Director; Patricia Roenfeldt; Rosemary Ravenscroft; and Jim Blancett. Carl Buchanan and Donna Emmons helped coordinate the seminar, where the participants discovered more about themselves and increased their knowledge of how BLM manages critical issues. It was hoped that employees would more readily see how they fit into the Bureau and how their contributions would benefit the organization.

Based on the following quotes from the attendees, the seminar was a great success: "Liked mixture of people without regard to grade and function." "Made everyone feel as an important part of BLM." "We would also like to recommend this seminar include Bureau employees who have over five years." "We feel it was also well presented as a maintenance and an orientation seminar." "Participation of managers statewide promoted interaction and networking." "This furthered knowledge of the Bureau and its mission and its interaction with the outside." "Course was excellent, good material, good speakers, liked having all BLM employees as participants and as instructors."

LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM

Delegations from Israel and mainland China visited the Service Center this week to study it. Officials from Taiwan and Colombia have also recently spent time learning about it.

What's attracting all this attention? The Bureau's Land Information System. Although still in its infancy, BLM's work in the LIS arena is becoming a focal point for worldwide attention.

A Land Information System links together the data necessary to effectively plan and manage the nation's public lands. The three major types of land data the Bureau maintains are: the National Public Land Survey System, which consists of points on the earth used to describe land location; the national land and mineral records, which document legal rights, including ownership, status, and use; and resource information, such as the location of timber, wildlife habitat, and cultural resource sites.

Beginning with the strategic plan in 1976, the Bureau envisioned an automated system that utilizes all three sets of information. Today, we are realizing this dream through the efforts of many people throughout the Bureau.

The ALMRS-GIS Project Office is developing a system for implementation in the Bureau during 1993-94. The ALMRS concept has been expanded in the past year from a records system with a Geographical Coordinate Data Base pinpointing specific locations. Now we plan to link this target system with spatial resource data systems. These are currently run by MOSS. D-150 duties have recently expanded to include modernization efforts begun by the Branch of Information Resources Management in Washington.

Collection plans for many of the coordinates to be used are being formulated at the Cadastral Survey office in Washington and at the Service Center. Eventually, this data collection effort will be spread throughout the states.

The states are also taking an active role in testing and developing features of the Bureau's LIS strategy. The Western Oregon Digital Data Base is a joint project with several Oregon-based agencies. Their use of GIS technology

includes such developments as the intelligent cursor, a highly automated and efficient way of digitizing resource information.

In Farmington, New Mexico, several prototypes have tested the feasibility of linking records, resources, and coordinate data. These early coordinated efforts have proven that an LIS within the Bureau is feasible.

The need for these analytical tools for wise land management decisions is not limited to the Bureau. The BLM target system will provide an information base for many departments and agencies within the Federal Government, including other Interior agencies and the Forest Service.

Although other countries will not use our data, BLM is developing an LIS strategy that relates to common problems of land and resource management across the globe.

Automated Surveys

As the popularity of the minicomputer increases, additional applications for it are being discovered. One involves the use of Cadastral Survey Records.

In April of this year, the Branch of Micrographics implemented a pilot program to allow California access to their automated records through the DPS8 ASPN retrieval system. A team from Micrographics provided training on coding and retrieving survey records.

Micrographics has automated the survey records of eight states. The computerized index identifies townships, ranges, meridians, boundaries, survey date, and surveyor. Any one element can be used to retrieve data.

Retrieval time decreased dramatically but created space problems on the DPS8. California resolved this by downloading the data to their minicomputer.

Breakfast with the Bosses

The aroma of pancakes and sausages filled the air as the Service Center Management Team served breakfast to 120 people who were the winners of a contest sponsored by the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The Division with the highest percentage of contributors was to be awarded a breakfast purchased and cooked by the Service Center managers. In this case, it was two breakfasts because Finance and Data Operations had 100% participation.

Headwaiters Bob Moore and Pete Pedersen led a crack team of waiters,

cooks, and busboys—Mike Kirby, Jerry Carlander, John Cash, Chuck Tulloss, John Baker, Jerry Yarborough, Doug Murphey, and Ed Dettman. Their four-star performance was appreciated by all.

This year's CFC was the most successful ever at the Service Center. More than \$23,000 was contributed, \$7,000 more than any previous year. Employee participation was 76%, up from the previous high of 41%. Beneficiaries included dozens of charities in the Denver metro area as well as national and international health and welfare organizations.



Maitre d' Bob Moore clears the table, watched by nervous diners Kay Benson, Linda Robbins, Alice Sonne, Linda Davis, and Sandy Clayton